

C U R R I C U L U M V I T A E - J O H N S H E R M A N

4175 Central Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46205
john@shermanandcompany.net
www.shermanandcompany.net

(317) 923-6775 Sherman & Co. PR Office
(317) 283-3330 Mesa Verde Press
john@mesaverdepress.com
www.mesaverdepress.com

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 1991-present **SHERMAN & CO. PUBLIC RELATIONS**, Indianapolis: OWNER, consulting firm offering public relations, marketing, and editorial services.
- 1986-1991 **RESORT CONDOMINIUMS INTERNATIONAL, INC. (RCI)**, Indianapolis: MANAGER, Public Relations Department, 1990-91; MANAGER, Corporate Communications Department, 1989-90; MANAGER, Travel Agency Marketing, 1986-89.
- 1986 **BORSHOFF KETCHUM, INC., PUBLIC RELATIONS**, Indianapolis: ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE.
- 1985-86 **INDIANA BUSINESS MAGAZINE**, Indianapolis: MANAGING EDITOR.
- 1984-85 **EL PALACIO MAGAZINE**, Santa Fe: EDITOR.
- 1978-83 **ST. CATHERINE INDIAN SCHOOL**, Santa Fe: DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT.
- 1975-present **JOHN SHERMAN EDITORIAL SERVICES**, Indianapolis, Santa Fe, and Washington, DC: WRITER/ EDITOR/ PHOTOGRAPHER. (See Publishing Credits)
- 1975-77 **U.S. PEACE CORPS**, Washington, DC: PROGRAMMER, 1976-77; AFRICAN PROGRAMS COORDINATOR, 1975-76; PLACEMENT OFFICER, 1970- 71.
- 1970-73 **U.S. PEACE CORPS**, Accra, Ghana: ADMINISTRATOR, 1971-73.
- 1971-73 **AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE SCHOLARSHIPS**, Accra, Ghana: NATIONAL DIRECTOR.
- 1968-69 **INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS**, War Zone, Nigeria/Biafra: MEMBER, Medical/Feeding Team.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE, LANGUAGE ARTS

- 1984-85 Santa Fe Community College, Santa Fe
- 1978-83 St. Catherine Indian School, Santa Fe
- 1975 Federal City College, Washington, DC
- 1975 Georgetown University, Washington, DC
- 1974 Zaire-American Language Institute, Kinshasa, Zaire
- 1973-74 Ecole de Langue Anglaise, Kinshasa, Zaire
- 1969-70 West Side High School, Gary, IN
- 1967-68 Mlanje Day Secondary School, Mlanje, Malawi
- 1966-67 Ascension High School, Eleme, Nigeria

FORMAL EDUCATION

B.A., Journalism and English, Indiana University

M.A. Studies, African Literature, University of Ghana

Certificate, French Studies, Alliance Francaise, Kinshasa, Zaire

Non-degree Course Work: George Washington University, Atlanta University, University of New Mexico, College of Santa Fe

BOARDS, COMMITTEES, MEMBERSHIPS

Member, Board of Directors, Child Advocates, Inc., 2005-2009 (Chair, marketing committee, 2007-2008; Member, Development committee, 2008-2009)

Member, Board of Directors, Indianapolis Press Club, 2004-2006

Member, Board of Directors, Indianapolis Public Relations Society, 2004-2008 (President, 2007)

Member, Board of Directors, Indiana State Museum Foundation, 1993-1999 (President, 1996-1998; Honorary Director, 2000-2003)

Member, Board of Directors, AFS Intercultural Programs/Central Indiana (also served on national advisory committee, 1995-1997), 1991-1997

Member, Board of Directors, International Center of Indianapolis, 1992-1994

Former Member, Marketing Committees of American Pianists Association and Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, Indianapolis

Former Member, Board of Directors, Santa Fe Historical Society, Fairview Cemetery Preservation Association, Santa Fe Press Club, Santa Fe, NM.

Frequent lecturer and panelist, variety of topics, Indianapolis, other Indiana locations, and Santa Fe, 1977-present

Member, INDIANA: Indianapolis Public Relations Society, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, Indiana State Museum Foundation, Indiana Historical Society. NATIONAL: Authors Guild, PEN Center USA, ASCAP; Art Institute of Chicago, Fairview Cemetery Preservation Association (Santa Fe).

PUBLISHING CREDITS – John Sherman

BOOKS

New Faces at the Crossroads: The World in Central Indiana (Indiana University Press, for International Center of Indianapolis), 2007
War Stories: A Memoir of Nigeria and Biafra (Mesa Verde Press), 2002
Sir Leavealot and The Dragon's Treasure, revised copy (ghostwriter), National Committee on Planned Giving, 2002
Marjorie Main: Rural Documentary Poetry (Mesa Verde Press), 1999
Santa Fe: A Pictorial History (Donning), 1983, 1984, 1987; Second Edition., 1996
Your First Job (Career Press), 1993 (ghostwriter)
Ace Any Test (Career Press), 1992 (ghostwriter)
Taos: A Pictorial History (Gannon), 1990
America Is A Negro Child: Race Poems (Mesa Verde Press), 1981; special reprint 2003
It Give (sic) You Something To Think About: Collected Poems, 1977

"Relating Personal Experiences of the Biafra-Nigeria War through Artistic Expression," chapter in *Remembering Biafra: Narrative, History, and Memory of the Nigeria-Biafra War* (Goldline and Jacobs Publishers), 2010 (sole non-Nigerian contributor)
Editor, *Resumes! Resumes! Resumes!* (Career Press), 2nd Ed., 1995
Contributing Writer, *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis* (Indiana University Press), 1994
Edited several volumes of George Stevens' autobiography / New Mexico history of 19th & early 20th centuries, Santa Fe, 1983-85

OPERA

Libretto for "Biafra" (opera's world premiere – portion of Act II, Scene 2, Indianapolis, December 2006), score composed and conducted by Nathaniel Blume (www.mesaverdepress.com) - presented at conferences listed under "Papers" below. Also posted on YouTube.

PAPERS

"Educating Against War and Militarism through Creative Writing Based on Personal Experiences," 4th Women in Africa and the African Diaspora International Conference on Education, Gender & Sustainable Development in the Age of Globalization, Abuja, Nigeria, 2009

Same Topic, International Conference on the Biafra-Nigeria Civil War, "Theme: Our Stories and Lessons Learnt," Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI, 2009

Same Topic, Igbo Studies Association annual conference, Howard University, 2010

PERIODICALS

Managing Editor, *Indiana Business Magazine*, Indianapolis, 1985-1986.
Editor, *El Palacio*, Museum of New Mexico, Santa Fe, N.M., 1984-1985.
Travel/Feature Writer and Photographer, syndicated to *Travel/Holiday*, *Modern Maturity*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Denver Post*, *Boston Globe*, *Miami Herald*, *Newsday*, *Kansas City Star*, *New York Daily News*, other major publications, 1977 -present.
Editor of slide-show scripts for Washington, DC, public schools, Eliot Elisofon Collection, Museum of African Art, Washington, DC, 1975.

COLUMNS

"Generally Sherman," weekly humor column, *The Santa Fe Reporter*, 1978-84; daily one-minute drive-time radio spots, KLSK-FM, Santa Fe, 1984-85.
"Serious Business," business-humor column, regional business magazines, 1980-82
"Historical Features," *The Albuquerque Journal*, 1983-85

FICTION / POETRY/ NONFICTION/ HUMOR

Fiction and poetry published in *Lake Superior Review*, *Wind*, *Encore*, *Quality American Poetry*, *Poet Lore*, *Ball State University Forum*, *Berkeley Poetry Review*, *IndiAnnual*, *Arts Indiana*, *Indiana Writes*, *Flying Island*, *The Journal of Reading*, *Xavier*

University Review, Texas Quarterly, Wind, others, 1973-present.

Poetry Anthologies: *Dying: A Book of Comfort* (Doubleday, 1997); *And What Rough Beast: Poems at the End of the Century* (Ashland Poetry Press, Ashland University, 1999); *Touched by Adoption* (Green River Press, 1999); *A Linen Weave of Poets* (Wind, 2002), *Celebrating Seventy* (2004), and *And Know This Place* (Indiana University Press, anticipated 2010).

Readings of poetry, short fiction, nonfiction, novel excerpts, humor columns, Washington, D.C.; Santa Fe and Taos, N.M.; Indianapolis, Carmel, Portland, Berne, Bluffton, Decatur, Anderson, Greenfield, Bloomington, and Tipton, IN, 1977 – present. "Shades: Writings on Race, Culture, and Gender," joint poetry reading with daughter Chizoma Sherman, Indianapolis, April 2003; Bloomington, 2004; Tipton, IN, 2004; Westfield, IN, 2005; other venues pending. Group reading, Creative Renewal Arts Fellowship writers, Indianapolis Art Center, October 2006

Comedy material sold to Miss Joan Rivers, 1983-1985

AWARDS & HONORS

Display of poetry/photo posters, Indianapolis Artsgarden, January 2011

Featured poet, Jay County Heritage Festival, Portland, IN, October 2010

Poet of the Month, Zionsville Arts Initiative Art & Space Project, with posters of poems and on display, poetry reading, October 2010

Poem, "Where There Be Dragons," selected to be read as part of the Zionsville Brick Street Art Walk, where poets and sculptors were paired, with Salvaged Beauty Studio, 2010

Poem, "A Bowl of Possible Peas," selected to be permanently displayed on the Indianapolis Cultural Trail,, as part of the Trail's "Moving Forward" competition, installation set for 2011

"Biafra" photo poster / poem, selected for juried art show, SullivanMunce Cultural Center, Zionsville, IN, 3rd Place, 2008

Featured profile, 2006-2007 annual report, The Lilly Endowment, Inc., 2007

Artist residency, Mary Anderson Center for the Arts, St. Francis, IN, to write opera libretto, summer 2006

Judge, Creative Writing, Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance eXcel Awards, statewide finals, April 2006

Resident Author, Community Open House, Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library, 2005

Recipient, Creative Renewal Arts Fellowship, Arts Council of Indianapolis (for travel to Nigeria for lectures, interviews, contacts with universities, other institutions for future visits, future writing projects – altered, due to travel dangers, to writing opera libretto), 2005

War Stories adopted as college textbook, Northwestern University and Central Connecticut State University, others pending, 2006-
Keynote speaker, "War Today" art exhibit, ArtSpace30, Indianapolis, 2005

Artist Residency, Mary Anderson Center for the Arts, work on manuscript for *Truth and Lies: Fiction and Non-Fiction from a Hoosier Childhood*, compile "Generally Sherman" columns into book-length manuscript, and begin novel, "An Unfinished American Life," Mt. St. Francis, Indiana, 2004

Recipient, Individual Artist Grant, Indiana Arts Commission, 2004 – to complete the manuscript of *Truth and Lies: Fiction and Nonfiction from a Hoosier Childhood* and apply for a residency at the Mary Anderson Center

"Best Book by Hoosier Author 2003," *Indianapolis Monthly*, December 2003 "Best of Indianapolis" listing for *War Stories*

Featured Poet, Café Li'Ture (poetry series), Indianapolis, January 2003

Featured Poet, selected to inaugurate artists' series, Purdue Educational Center, Tipton, IN, September 2002

Featured Poet, *Marjorie Main*, Central Indiana Farm Festival, Greenfield Public Library, Greenfield, IN, September 2002

Featured Poet, Poetry Alliance of Indy, Barnes & Noble, Carmel, IN, August 2002

Recipient, Individual Artist Grant, Indiana Arts Commission, 2002 – to provide readings/discussions of *War Stories* in central Indiana – Indianapolis, Anderson, Portland, Greenfield, and New Castle

Special Honorable Mention from Mari Evans for "Little Brown Girl, 1927," Poetry in the Gallery (Indianapolis Museum of Art), 2002

Recipient of grant to give poetry readings at Bluffton (IN) High School, February and May, 2002

Marjorie Main selected to be featured at Culture & Agriculture exhibit, New Visions Gallery, Marshfield, WI, 2002

Featured Poet, "An Evening of Indiana Poetry with John Sherman," Poetry Alliance of Indy, Indianapolis Public Library, 2001

Recipient, Individual Artist Grant, Indiana Arts Commission, 2000 – provided poetry readings at schools and libraries in Indianapolis, Anderson, Bluffton, Decatur, and Greenfield, 2000-2001

First Prize, Poetry in the Gallery (Indianapolis Museum of Art), Writers' Center of Indianapolis, 1999, for "Marjorie Main"

First Prize/Poetry, Indianapolis-Marion County Library Literary Competition, 1989, for "Cages"

"Poetry on the Buses," Indianapolis METRO, 1989, with "Little Girl Little Boy"

Best-of-Issue Prize, *Skylark* (Purdue-Calumet), 1981, for "It Give You Something To Think About"

New Mexico Governor's Award of Honor for Historic Preservation, 1985, for *Santa Fe: A Pictorial History*

Selected to participate in two-person reading with poet Gerald Stern, Santa Fe, 1983

Poet-in-Residence, Brevard Community College, Brevard, FL, 1982

Finalist, Walt Whitman Award, Academy of American Poets, New York, 1981, for "Marjorie Main" manuscript

Florida Endowment for the Humanities grant for poetry reading, Miami-Dade Community College, Miami, FL, 1981

New Mexico Press Association, Awards for "Generally Sherman," 1980 and 1981

MEMBERSHIPS

Authors Guild

ASCAP

PEN American Center

Bloomington Free Verse Poets (2002-2007)

LISTINGS

Listed in current and/or previous editions of the following:

Granger Poetry Annual Index

Directory of American Poets and Fiction Writers

Directory of New Mexico Historians

Indiana Authors and Their Works

Artist Directory of the Arts Council of Indianapolis

Marquis' Who's Who in America, 57th Edition (2002) and subsequent editions

Marquis' Who's Who in Finance and Industry (2004) and subsequent editions

Heartland Arts Fund 2003-2004 Performing Artists Catalog (Mid-America Arts Alliance/Arts Midwest), Kansas City.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Not listed above are many credits for writing, editing and photography that have been earned for work performed on behalf of clients of Sherman & Co. Public Relations, including magazine and newspaper articles; photos that have appeared on TV and in magazines and newspapers; TV commercials; video script-writing and producing; print ads; creation of trade publications (e.g., brochures, newsletters, annual reports), and national writing and design awards. Samples available upon request.

1/1/2011